

The following letter has been posted to all current rate payers.

Dear Rate Payer

Re: Proposed Stormwater Drainage Charge Transfer

Central Coast Council is proposing a Special Variation to move the Stormwater Drainage Charge from the water bill to the rate notice.

Council currently applies a Stormwater Drainage Charge to most properties in the Council area. This charge helps Council manage the stormwater drainage network sustainably.

The charge is currently set under the Water Management Act 2000, regulated by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), and included in the water bill.

From 1 July 2026, changes to legislation mean Council can no longer apply this charge under the Water Management Act 2000 on the water bill.

To maintain funding for essential stormwater drainage services, Council proposes to apply a Drainage Charge to the rate notice under the Local Government Act 1993 for ratepayers who currently pay the charge.

To make this change, Council must apply to IPART for a Special Variation. Before submitting the application, Council is seeking community feedback:

- Complete the online submission form (via QR code)
- Email: engagement@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au
- Write to Council: PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259

Learn more at [Stormwater Drainage Charge Transfer | Your Voice Our Coast](#). Submissions close 5pm, Sunday 11 January 2026.

Current placement of Stormwater Drainage Charge

Proposed placement of Drainage Charge



Frequently Asked Questions

Will this impact the total amount I pay?

No. You will pay the same amount as if the charge were on your water bill. The only change is that it is on your rate notice instead. Like other rates, the Stormwater Drainage Charge will be subject to annual rate peg adjustments set by IPART (currently 3.2%). The rate peg is a cap on how much councils can increase general rates income each year. These adjustments also apply to water bills and are part of normal yearly changes, not because of this transfer. While there is no direct nett impact to the total amount you pay, the transfer would mean a cumulative increase to Council's rate income of 12.67% (including 3.2% rate peg).

What does Council use the Stormwater Drainage Charge for?

The Stormwater Drainage Charge helps Council manage the stormwater drainage network sustainably. It funds maintenance and replacement of existing stormwater infrastructure as well as construction of new infrastructure as the network expands. The network benefits the whole community by protecting public infrastructure, safeguarding natural assets, connecting communities and supporting access to work, recreation and essential services. In 2024-25, Council invested in expanding, upgrading and maintaining the stormwater drainage network:

- Roads and drainage infrastructure: \$18 million
- Road construction and maintenance: \$8.8 million
- Drainage upgrades: \$5.5 million
- Culvert projects (renewal, replacement and design): \$3 million

The Stormwater Drainage Charge does not fund the construction of kerb and gutter, which is a road asset funded through ordinary rates.

Can Council keep the charge within the water bill?

No. On 15 August 2024, the NSW Government passed changes to the Water Management Act through the Water Management Amendment (Central Coast Council) Bill 2024. These changes formally removed Council's ability to levy the Stormwater Drainage Charge under the Water Management Act from the 2026-27 financial year.

What would it mean if Council did not make a Special Variation application?

Without a Special Variation application, Council will not be able to transfer the charge.

The charge funds maintenance and replacement of existing stormwater infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure as the network expands. Council manages about 1,201 kilometres of drainage pipes, pits and channels and more than 100,000 drainage assets. If the charge is removed, Council would lose around \$22 million in funding. To offset this, money would need to be redirected from other services, leading to reduced service levels across many areas.

Could other efficiencies be found, so that the charge doesn't need to continue?

Council's long-term financial plan already includes significant efficiency targets that maintain current service levels. Further efficiencies would only be possible by reducing services. This could mean shorter operating hours or even closing some services.

I don't currently pay the Stormwater Drainage Charge, will this affect me?

No. The change will only impact properties that currently have the charge.